

Did you know...



Children who can describe things and events can have conversations about what is happening in books, and children who can tell stories are better able to understand what they hear, and later, what they read.

Here's how...

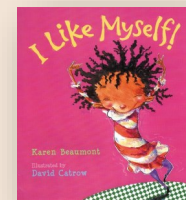


- ✱ Read books that have words or phrases that repeat. Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase with you each time.
- ✱ Re-read books so your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to retell the story.
- ✱ Have your child retell the story.
- ✱ Encourage your child to tell you something from her own experience related to what happened in the book.
- ✱ Use puppets or props to tell the story to help your child remember it.
- ✱ Encourage your child to talk about the pictures in the book, even if what she says is not in the story. Ask open-ended questions (ones that cannot be answered with yes or no).
- ✱ Have your child draw pictures and ask her to tell you about them.
- ✱ Stop before you turn the page and ask your child what they think will happen next.
- ✱ Expand on your child's descriptions. You: *What have you got there?* Child: *A ball.* You: *Oh, it's a big, red, bouncy ball! What game shall we play with it?*

Read



***I Like Myself!* by Karen Beaumont**



Bursting with energy and imagination, this celebration of being one-of-a-kind encourages children to love everything about themselves, inside and out.

Author Karen Beaumont and illustrator David Catrow have teamed up on these other picture books:

I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!

Doggone Dogs!

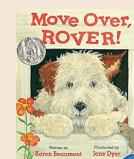
Where's My T-R-U-C-K?

Other books by the author:

Move Over, Rover!

Shoe-la-la!

No Sleep for the Sheep!



Choosing Books



Books that help build describing or retelling skills (sometimes called “narrative” skills):

Books with a repeated phrase

Books that repeat part of the story

Books that tell a tale that builds on itself

Books where the events happen in an order

Books with detailed illustrations

Wordless picture books

Sing



Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes

(Touch each body part as you sing it)

Head, shoulders, knees and toes,
knees and toes.

Head, shoulders, knees and toes,
knees and toes,

And eyes and ears and mouth and nose,
Head, shoulders, knees and toes,
knees and toes.

(Repeat, getting faster each time)

You can find the “Head Shoulders Knees and Toes”
song at <http://tinyurl.com/wccls-knees-toes>
(Washington County Cooperative Library Services)

Play



Through play children develop so many skill areas such as language and literacy, science, and math. They also develop social and emotional skills, which are just as important as academic skills when it comes to being ready for kindergarten.

Inviting a friend over to play or visiting the neighborhood park help children learn to share and solve conflicts.

Action songs help your child listen and follow directions, while teaching about words and sounds. Try “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes.”

“Pretend” play lets your child try out skills and roles they see from adults. Provide dress-up clothes, let your child serve you food, and let them write your order down on paper.

At this age, children can begin playing simple board games such as Candy Land™, Chutes and Ladders™, and Memory games.

Join in! As you play, help children expand and build on their ideas. Find joy in spending time with your child during these critical years.

Talk



Let your child know every day that they are special and that you love them. Notice things they do well or point out things you appreciate:

“That sock was really hard for you to put on your foot, but you didn’t give up!” “You are really good at finding pretty rocks when we walk to the park.” “I appreciate that you are willing to try new things.” “I love you more than ice cream!”



Write



Let your child draw a picture of himself or herself. Label the picture with their name and what they like about themselves. Hang it up on the refrigerator or in their room.

At your library...



Idaho Family Reading Week is an annual statewide celebration of reading as a family activity. The theme this year is “Believe and Achieve!” Libraries across the state are planning fun events that celebrate family reading.

Ask your librarian about special events and programs planned for Family Reading Week, November 8—14, 2021.